

NEWS

NEWS

NEWS



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**  
**KELLY ANN VITACCA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**  
713.205.0355, [PR@vitacca.org](mailto:PR@vitacca.org)

**VITACCA PRODUCTIONS & COMPANY ANNOUNCES  
2012/13 SEASON GUEST ARTISTS**

**Season Features Prestigious National and Local Choreographers:  
Autumn Eckman, Andy and Dionne Noble, Joseph Walsh**

**HOUSTON, TX – JULY 10, 2012:** Vitacca Productions & Company (Vitacca P&C) Artistic Director Kelly Ann Vitacca and Artistic Advisor Phillip Broomhead announce the 2012/13 season guest artists. Nationally and locally renowned choreographers Autumn Eckman, Artistic Associate from Giordano Dance Chicago; Andy and Dionne Noble, Directors of NobleMotion Dance and Assistant Dance Professors at Sam Houston State University; and Joseph Walsh, Houston Ballet Principal Dancer will work with both Vitacca Dance Project Pre-Professional Company and Vitacca Community Project Choreographic Fellows to create new works for Vitacca P&C as well as document the choreographic process. Vitacca P&C will also feature a master class taught by Eckman on Saturday, September 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dominic Walsh Dance Theater 2311 Dunlavy Street #210. The master class fee is \$25.00. For further information visit [www.vitacca.org](http://www.vitacca.org).

“Our 2012-2013 guest choreographers come to us from all corners of the contemporary dance field. Each choreographer will bring a new strength and artistic approach to Vitacca Dance Project repertoire and will offer their vast compositional knowledge to our Choreographic Apprentices. We are delighted to work with such outstanding artists and create programs that will share their artistry with the entire community,” comments Vitacca.

**Season Features Prestigious National and Local Choreographers**

**Autumn Eckman**, an Atlanta native, received her classical training from Houston Ballet Academy under Clara Cravey and Steve Brulee. In 2000, Eckman relocated to Chicago to join Giordano Dance Chicago, where she is currently serving as Artistic Associate and Director of Giordano II. She has also been a dancer with State Street Ballet (Santa Barbara), Cangelosi Dance Project, Lucky Plush Productions, Luna Negra Dance Theater, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Ron De Jesus Dance, and Collective Body Dance Lab. Eckman has created five works for the Giordano company and has been commissioned by several companies, universities, and schools including Western Michigan University, KRESA, Missouri Contemporary Ballet, State Street Ballet Young Dancers, and Contemporary Dance South. In 2010, she was named as a "standout choreographer" in the *Chicago Tribune*. In addition, Eckman is a full-time instructor at Northern Illinois University where she enjoys teaching all disciplines of dance and is a teacher at the Lou Conte Dance Studio and Visceral Dance Chicago.

**Andy Noble** is Co-Artistic Director of NobleMotion Dance and an Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University. He is also a Co-Founding member of Houston Dance Festival and the Associate Artistic Director of Dance Gallery Festival. *Houston Press* recently recognized Noble as one of Houston's 100 Most Creative. Additionally, he has served as faculty at the University of South Florida and Western Washington University as well as been a guest artist at numerous other universities across the country. His performing career includes six years with Repertory Dance Theatre (RDT), where he performed in over 40 choreographic works

[www.vitacca.org](http://www.vitacca.org)

by such noted masters as Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham and Jose Limon. He also had the honor of working first-hand with many cutting edge contemporary and international artists such as Gideon Obarzanek (Chunky Move), Jø Strømgren and Zvi Gotheiner. Noble's choreographic work has been presented nationally by organizations such as Florida's Moving Current Dance Company, Utah's Repertory Dance Theatre and Seattle's *Northwest New Works Series*.

**Dionne Sparkman Noble** is Co-Artistic Director of NobleMotion Dance and an Assistant Professor of Dance at Sam Houston State University. She has also served as faculty at Florida State University, University of South Florida and Western Washington University. Sparkman Noble has performed with Demetrius Klein Dance Company, Repertory Dance Theatre (RDT), and Moving Current Dance Collective. Her choreographic work has been produced by such organizations as New York's *University Settlement*, Seattle's *Northwest New Works Series*, The A.W.A.R.D. Show!, Moving Current Dance Company and Tallahassee Ballet.

**Joseph Walsh** is originally from Pennsylvania. He trained at Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts, American Ballet Theatre and Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. Walsh was a member of Houston Ballet II prior to joining the professional company in 2007. Since then, Walsh has been featured in a variety of roles, both contemporary and classical, including Lensky in John Cranko's *Onegin*, Hans van Manen's Solo, the Prince in Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker*, Charles d'Artoise in Stanton Welch's *Marie*, first pas de deux in Antony Tudor's *The Leaves are Fading*, William Forsythe's *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*, Jiří Kylián's *Soldiers' Mass*, the first and seventh pas de deux in Stanton Welch's *Nosotros*, Des Grieux Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon*, and Garuda in Welch's *La Bayadère*. In August 2009 Walsh was awarded a prestigious Princess Grace Award by the Princess Grace Foundation-USA. In 2012 he was promoted to Principal dancer at Houston Ballet. Walsh has also choreographed works for Houston Ballet and Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts.

### About Vitacca Productions & Company

Vitacca Productions & Company is a dance development organization that provides advanced dance coaching, outreach programs, professional performances and production/creative management services which bridge the gap between dance artists, career opportunities and the community.

###



**Vitacca Productions & Company**  
***Master Class with Autumn Eckman***  
**Fact Sheet**

- What:** Master class with Autumn Eckman
- About:** Autumn Eckman, an Atlanta native, received her classical training from Houston Ballet Academy under Clara Cravey and Steve Brulee. In 2000, Eckman relocated to Chicago to join Giordano Dance Chicago, where she is currently serving as Artistic Associate and Director of Giordano II. She has also been a dancer with State Street Ballet (Santa Barbara), Cangelosi Dance Project, Lucky Plush Productions, Luna Negra Dance Theater, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Ron De Jesus Dance, and Collective Body Dance Lab. Eckman has created five works for the Giordano company and has been commissioned by several companies, universities, and schools including Western Michigan University, KRESA, Missouri Contemporary Ballet, State Street Ballet Young Dancers, and Contemporary Dance South. In 2010, she was named as a "standout choreographer" in the [Chicago Tribune](#). In addition, Eckman is a full-time instructor at Northern Illinois University where she enjoys teaching all disciplines of dance and is a teacher at the Lou Conte Dance Studio and Visceral Dance Chicago.
- When:** 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 8, 2012
- Where:** Dominic Walsh Dance Theater  
2311 Dunlavy Street #210, Houston, Texas 77006
- Fee:** \$25.00
- For more information:** Visit Vitacca Productions & Company online at [vitacca.org](http://vitacca.org).

###